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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/745,546	12/26/2000	Ichiro Okajima	201339US2	8730

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OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
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ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

EXAMINER

ENG, GEORGE

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2643

DATE MAILED: 06/18/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/745,546

Applicant(s)

OKAJIMA ET AL.

Examiner

George Eng

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 December 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 7.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statement filed 3/3/2003 (paper no. 7) has being considered.

Drawings

3. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference sign(s) not mentioned in the description: the reference number "2" in figure 2. A proposed drawing correction, corrected drawings, or amendment to the specification to add the reference sign(s) in the description, are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1- are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ahuja et al. (US PAT. 5,689,553 hereinafter Ahuja).

Regarding claim 1, Ahuja discloses a communication method comprising managing terminal management information concerning a plurality of communication terminals of a user (abstract and col. 6 lines 30-43), identifying one or more terminals that can accept a call by referring to an ability needed for a communication involved in the call when the call addressed to the user is initiated, and separating information involving in the call into items of information to be sent to the one or more identified terminals, and combining one or more terminals identified into information to be sent to one of the plurality of communication terminals that initiates the call in order to connect diverse equipments between users, i.e., to form a virtual terminal (col. 6 line 44 through col. 9 line 13 and col. 14 line 48 through col. 15 line 58).

Regarding claim 2, Ahuja teaches to convert the items of information using an information coding scheme conforming to the one of the plurality of terminals into those using information coding schemes employed in said one or more communication terminals and vice versa (col. 6 line 44 through col. 7 line 6).

Regarding claim 3, Ahuja discloses the terminal management information including predetermined communication abilities of the plurality of communication terminals (col. 13 line 58 through col. 14 line 14).

Regarding claim 4, the limitations of the claim are rejected as the same reasons set forth in claim 1.

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Regarding claim 5, the limitations of claim are rejected as the same reasons set forth in claim 2.

Regarding claim 6, the limitations of claim are rejected as the same reasons set forth in claim 3.

Regarding claim 7, Ahuja discloses to compress and expand the items of information in accordance with communication abilities of said one or more communication terminals (col. 16 lines 24-27).

Regarding claim 8, Ahuja discloses to filter the items of information in accordance with communication abilities of one or more communication terminals (col. 12 lines 22-45).

Regarding claim 9, the limitations of the claim are rejected as the same reasons set forth in claim 1.

Regarding claim 10, Ahuja discloses the plurality of communication terminals including communication terminals coupled to the virtual terminal configuring device via a radio communication interface (figure 1 and col. 5 lines 38-44).

Regarding claim 11, Ahuja discloses the plurality of communication terminal including communication terminals coupled to the virtual terminal configuring device via a network (figure 1 and col. 5 lines 53-63).

Regarding claim 12, the limitations of the claim are rejected as the same reasons set forth in claim 1.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Bruno et al. (US PAT. 6,356,533) discloses a method for selecting communication mode based on the abilities of user devices and the preferences of users (Abstract). Dinha (US PAT. 6,115,372) discloses a method for providing a unitary virtual circuit in a digital network having communication links of diverse service types (col. 3 lines 14-39). Bruno et al. (US PAT. 6,020,915) discloses a system for providing an voice-only endpoint with pseudo multimedia service (abstract). Takahashi (US PAT. 5,737,321) discloses a multi-media teleconference system serving sound data to an existing telephone terminal as well as multimedia terminals (abstract).

7. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington D.C. 20231

Or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314 (for Technology Center 2600 only)

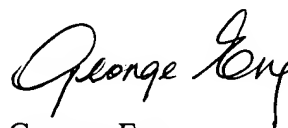
Hand delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, V.A., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to George Eng whose telephone number is 703-308-9555. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday to Friday from 7:30 AM to 6:00 PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Curtis A. Kuntz, can be reached on (703) 305-4870. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-308-6306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George Eng".

George Eng

Examiner

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